

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01052 181049Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PC-04 CU-04 OMB-01 EUR-25 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSC-01 DRC-01

/163 W

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R 171800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7692

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TO

SUBJ: LOME'S LADY MAYOR LOSES HER JOB: ANOTHER MINA BITES  
THE DUST

1. MARIE SIVOMEY, POPULAR AND EFFECTIVE LADY MAYOR OF TOGO'S CAPITAL, AND GOOD FRIEND OF USA, WAS TOLD YESTERDAY (MAY 16) BY MININTERIOR BAGNAH THAT THIS AFTERNOON SHE WILL HAND OVER HER OFFICE TO HER AS YET UNNAMED SUCCESSOR. MADAME SIVOMEY RETURNED MAY 15 FROM A TWO-WEEK TRIP TO DUISBURG, WEST GERMANY, ONE OF LOME'S "TWIN CITIES"; SHE HAS BEEN TIRELESSLY COURTING ASSISTANCE FOR LOME THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TWIN CITIES PROGRAM FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS. IN HER ABSENCE, GOT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED TWO DECREES, IMPLEMENTING TWO ORDINANCES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUED ON JULY 12, 1973. PURPOSES OF ORDINANCES WAS TO REPLACE "SPECIAL DELEGATIONS" IN CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES WITH CIRCUMSCRIPTION AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS RESPECTIVELY. ACCORDING TO ORDINANCE, MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS FOR MUNICIPAL AREA IS SEVEN. WHEN LIST OF SEVEN FOR LOME APPEARED MAY 13 TOGO-PRESSE WITHOUT MME SIVOMEY'S NAME, FEW OUTSIDE OF CITY HALL REALIZED SHE COULD  
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PAGE 02 LOME 01052 181049Z

NO LONGER BE MAYOR. NEW MAYOR WILL BE ELECTED THIS AFTERNOON

BY NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS FROM AMONG THEMSELVES. RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE KNOWN TONIGHT.

2. OLD LOME "DELEGATION SPECIALE" HAD FIVE MEMBERS: THREE MINAS, INCLUDING MME SIVOMEY, ONE EWE AND ONE CABRAIS, I.E., SOUTH-NORTH RATIO OF 4:1. NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (ALL NEW FACES) HAS TWO MINAS, TWO EWES (BOTH WOMEN, ONE MARRIED TO NORTHERNER), TWO NORTHERNERS AND ONE INTERESTING CHARACTER: EMILE FOURN, SON OF FRENCH FATHER AND DAHOMEYAN MOTHER, WHO HAD FRENCH NATIONALITY BUT GOT RID OF IT AFTER SAKAKAWA PLANE CRASH, ACCORDING TO A COUSIN. FOURN, WHO HAS BEEN CHIEF OF LOME'S ROADS DEPT SEVERAL YEARS, SAID TO BE EYADEMA'S LISTENING POST IN CITY HALL. SO, NEW SOUTH-NORTH RATIO IS 5:2 OR 4:3 DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU PUT FOURN--ETHNICALLY SOUTH, OPPORTUNISTICALLY NORTH?

3. WHAT'S BEHIND MRS. SIVOMEY'S REMOVAL? NOT SURE YET; CERTAINLY NO APPARENT REASON FOR GOT TO BE DISSATISFIED WITH HER PERFORMANCE. HER CIVIC PROMINENCE, HOWEVER, COUPLED WITH HER PRESTIGE AS DEVOUT MEMBER OF STaunchLY CATHOLIC, CONSERVATIVE AND HIGHLY PLACED MINA FAMILY MAY HAVE BEEN HER UNDOING IN THIS PERIOD OF RETURN TO NATIVISM. HER REMOVAL, HOWEVER, MAY ALSO BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO EYADEMA'S LONGSTANDING AIM TO REDRESS IMBALANCE OF POWER IN TOGO BETWEEN MORE SOPHISTICATED BETTER EDUCATED SOUTH AND RELATIVELY BACKWARD NORTH FROM WHENCE HE COMES.

4. IN RECENT MONTHS THREE OTHER PROMINENT MINAS (AND ONE EWE) HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM HIGH POSITIONS:  
(A) IGNACE PROSPER SEDDOH, EWE, RELIEVED ON OR ABOUT MARCH 1 AS DIRECTOR OF CABINET, MIN COMMERCE; NO ONWARD ASSIGNMENT;  
(B) GERVAIS KOFFI DJONDO, MINA, PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND WAS RELIEVED OF LATTER JOB MARCH 26. WHILE ECOSOC COUNCIL JOB HAS PRESTIGE, UNDERSTAND IT DOESN'T PAY MUCH. DJONDO, ONCE REGARDED AS SECOND MOST POWERFUL PERSON IN REGIME, AND RUMORED TO HOLD DUAL NATIONALITY - FRENCH AND TOGOLESE, IS MINA AND ALLIED TO MARIE GBIKPI SIVOMEY BY MARRIAGE;  
(C) HEZEKIAH CREPPY, MINA, RELIEVED AS DIRECTOR OF CABINET IN MINPUBLIC WORKS ON MARCH 30; REDUCED TO TECHNICAL ADVISER  
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PAGE 03 LOME 01052 181049Z

SAME MINISTRY.

(D) MICHEL ROBERT AHYI, MINA, RELIEVED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR TOURISM ON MAY 15; PRESUMABLY CONTINUES AS DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF RURAL ANIMATION AND POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN MINISTRY OF RURAL ECONOMY, JOB HE HELD CONCURRENTLY BUT FAR BELOW RANK OF HIGH COMMISSIONER.

5. IN SAME TIME FRAME, ONLY OTHER JOB CHANGE OF SIMILAR

STATURE WAS REMOVAL OF KIAKOUDOU ABASSEM, CABRAIS, AS DIRECTOR  
OF CABINET, MINNATIONAL EDUCATION - WHO TURNED UP A FEW WEEKS  
LATER AS DIRECTOR OF CABINET, MINFOREIGN AFFAIRS.

6. LATE FLASH--FROM MME SIVOMEY: NEW MAYOR IS EMILE FOURN.  
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